

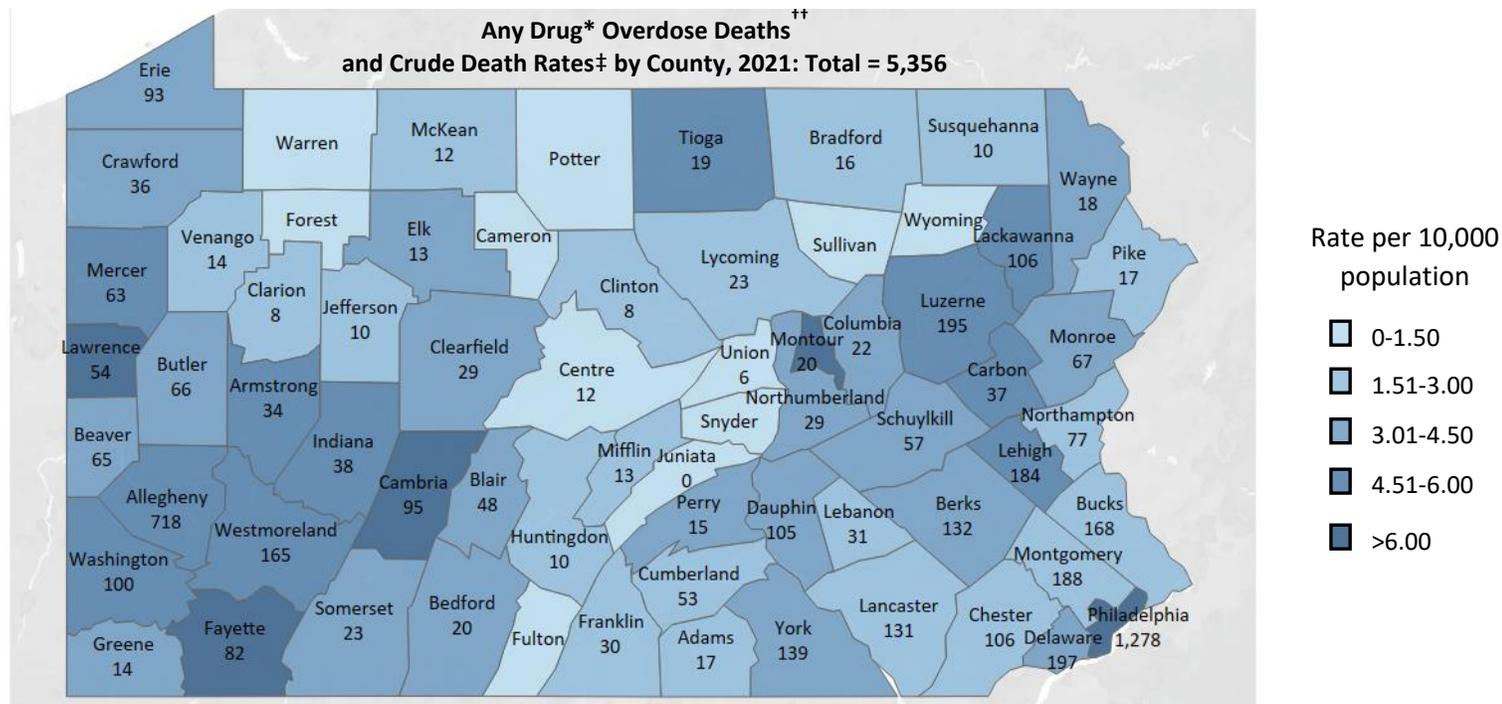
Fatal and Non-fatal Drug Overdoses in Pennsylvania, 2021

Through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded grants, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has collected both fatal and non-fatal overdose data for the past several years from a variety of sources†.

As of August 2023, there were 5,356 Unintentional Any Drug* overdose deaths in Pennsylvania in 2021. Key findings include:

- Of the 5,356 Any Drug* overdose deaths identified in 2021, 85 percent (4,539) were confirmed to be opioid-related, a three percent increase in opioid-related deaths compared to 2020 (4,413).
 - Of the 4,539 confirmed opioid-related overdose deaths, 48 percent (2,159) also involved a stimulant such as cocaine or methamphetamine contributing to death, a 11 percent increase compared to 2020 (1,952).
 - In 2021, 10 percent (541) of overdose deaths involved a stimulant without an opioid. For comparison, nine percent (442) of overdose deaths involved a stimulant without an opioid in 2020.
 - Of 2021 overdose deaths, 2.6 percent (137) are missing toxicology information. Similarly, 3.5 percent (181) of 2020 overdose deaths were also missing toxicology information.
- On average, nearly 15 Pennsylvanians died from a drug overdose every day in 2021.
- There was an increase in drug overdose deaths in Pennsylvania (3.5 percent) in 2021 compared to 2020. 2017 remains the year with the most drug overdose deaths at 5,425.
- Based on death record data, over half of drug overdose deaths occurred in the decedent’s own home (56 percent), highlighting the importance of getting naloxone into the hands of community members, particularly friends and family of people who use opioids.
- 70 percent of Any Drug* overdose deaths occurred among males.
- The majority (27 percent) of Any Drug* overdose deaths occurred among those 35–44 years old, followed by 23 percent among those 25–34 years old.
- 73 percent of Any Drug* overdose decedents were white, 20 percent were Black, six percent were of all additional races, and less than one percent were of unknown race.
- 91 percent of Any Drug* overdose decedents were non-Hispanic, eight percent were Hispanic, and less than one percent were of unknown ethnicity.
- Percent change in rates‡ per 10,000 population for 2021 vs. 2020 were highest among the following demographic groups: 65+ age group (22 percent increase), Blacks (7 percent increase) and Hispanics (6 percent increase).

Additional detailed findings will be available on the [Drug Overdose Surveillance Interactive Data Report](#).

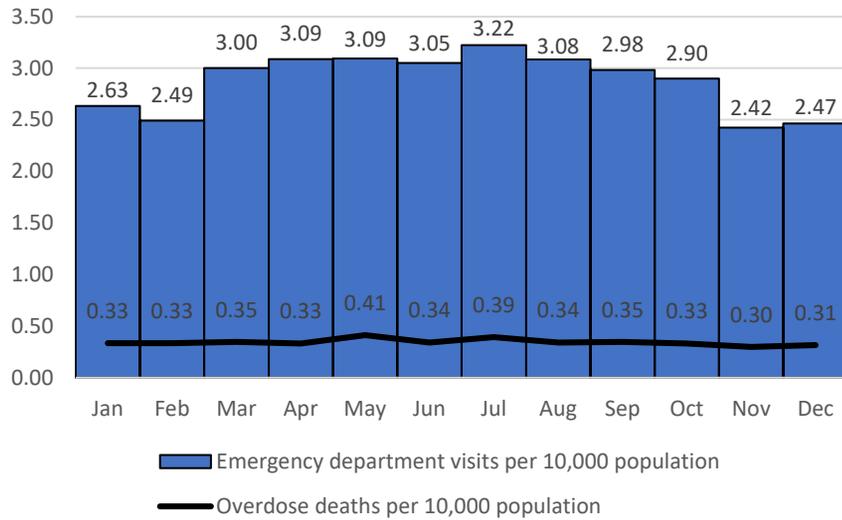


† Fatal overdose data includes death record data from the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries at DOH, as well as toxicology and coroner/medical examiner records data through partnerships with individual county coroner’s/medical examiners and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. Counts do not include suicides or homicides where someone intended to harm another person by poisoning. Non-fatal overdose data includes syndromic surveillance data through our partnerships with emergency departments. Death data for 2021 is current as of August 2023.

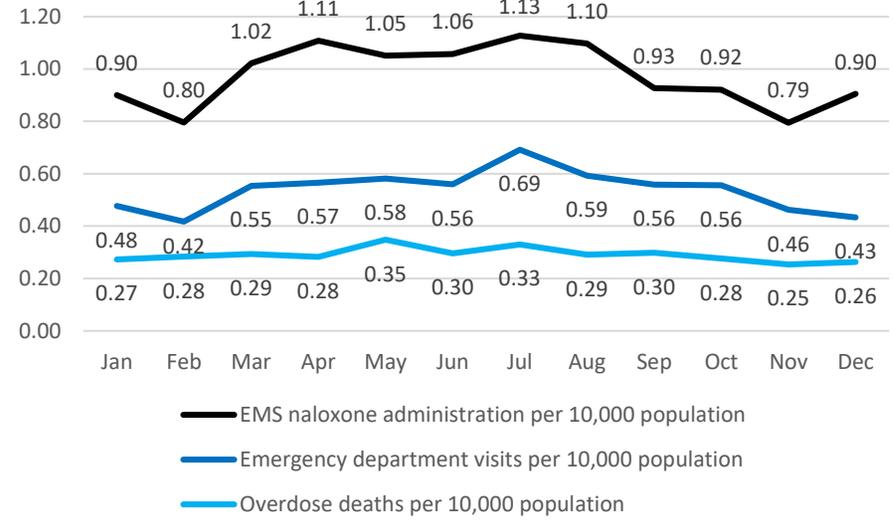
†† Counts for counties with overdose death counts between 1 and 5 are suppressed.

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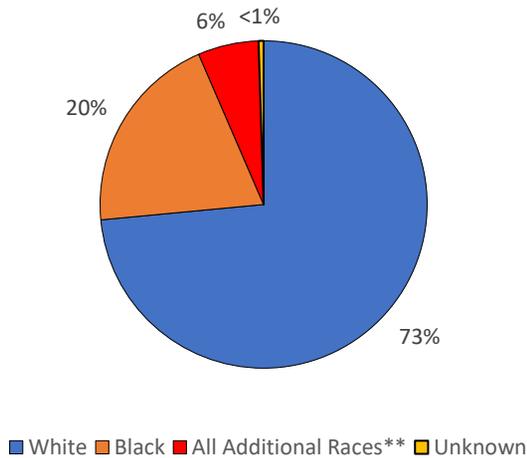
Rate of Fatal and Non-fatal Overdose Trends per 10,000 Population for **Any Drug*** Overdose, by Month, 2021



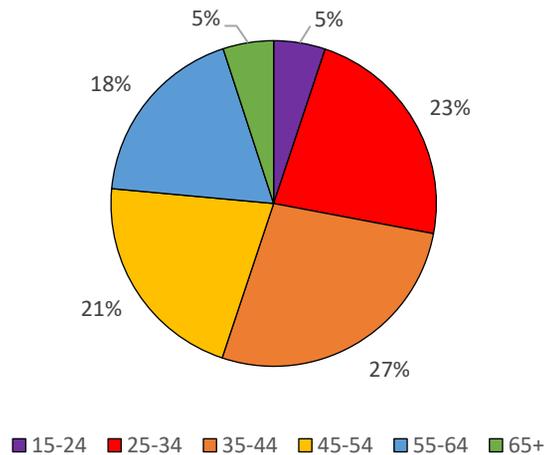
Rate of Fatal and Non-fatal Overdose Trends per 10,000 Population for **Any Opioid§** Overdose, by Month, 2021



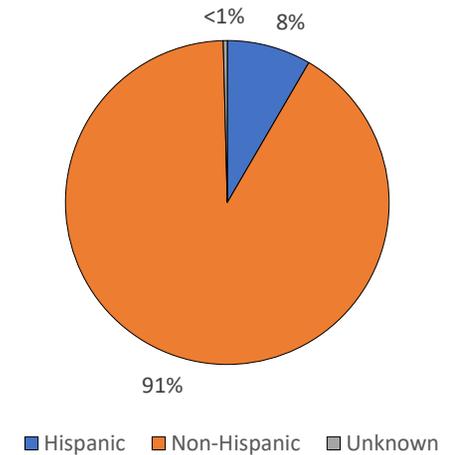
Any Drug Overdose Deaths by Race, 2021



Any Drug Overdose Deaths by Age Group, 2021



Any Drug Overdose Deaths by Ethnicity, 2021



* "Any Drug" Overdoses include overdoses from illicit, prescription or over-the-counter drugs, excluding alcohol-only related overdoses.

§ "Any Opioid" Overdoses include overdoses from illicit or prescription opioids, including heroin and fentanyl.

††Counts do not include suicides or homicides where someone intended to harm another person by poisoning.

‡Rates were calculated using 2021 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

**All Additional Races includes Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Other Race